

April 10, 1952

Dr. Arthur Brown
Department of Microbiology
State University College of Medicine
Brooklyn 2, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Brown:

I regret that we do not have the vitamin-auxotrophs of K-12 requested in your letter of the 8th. I am pleased, however, to make available to you the Y-10 and Y-24 strains. (The biotin-requirement of recent stocks of the latter is dubious). Instead of my shipping them to you, however, I wonder if I may refer you to Dr. F. J. Ryan, Department of Zoology, Columbia University (Morningside Hts. campus), and to Dr. B. D. Davis at the PHS Tbc Research Lab., 411 E. 69 Street, New York 21. If you have not already discussed your project with them, I am sure you would find them very cooperative well beyond providing the cultures mentioned.

The research plan to which you refer reminds me of the work that Novick and Szilard have been doing (Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci., 36:708) with which you are perhaps already familiar.

Dr. Davis, especially, may be able to assist you with vitamin-auxotrophic mutants of *E. coli*. Although most of these are in the "Waks." strain, this should not be a serious impediment to the studies you are contemplating, unless recombination analysis becomes indispensable. If you must have them in K-12, it would be entirely feasible for you to apply the isolation methods that we have developed. In addition to the reprint I sent you some time ago, you will be interested to note the replica-plating technique described in the March 1952 *J. Bact.* (I will send you a reprint when they come). If you do follow this tack, I will be interested to hear of the mutant types you do find.

Is Dr. Kretchmer still with you in the microbiology department? If so, please give him my best regards.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Associate Professor of Genetics